

Pedestrian Safety for Seniors and People with Disabilities

Massachusetts Community Transportation Coordination Conference



- Meg Robertson
- Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist
- Massachusetts Commission for the Blind
- Worcester MA
- May 2, 2017

Mass Commission for the Blind

- Established July 13, 1906
- Currently one of the agencies in the Executive Office of Health and Human Services
- 6 regional offices throughout Massachusetts
- Over 26,000 individuals registered as Legally Blind in Massachusetts



Orientation & Mobility

- Refers to the ability to know where you are and where you want to go, whether you're moving from one room to another or walking downtown for a shopping trip.
- Refers to the ability to move safely, efficiently, and effectively from one place to another, such as being able to walk without tripping or falling, crossing streets, and use public transportation.

Orientation and Mobility Services



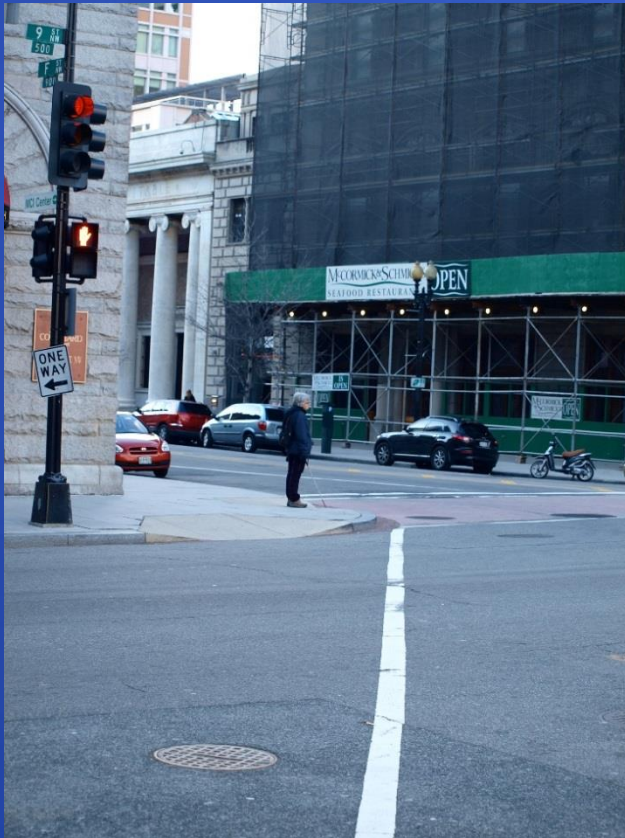
- The MCB model of Rehab Services includes O&M and travel training.
- There are 7 Certified O&M Specialist (COMS) who are employed by MCB
- For additional O&M services we also contract with the Carroll Center for the Blind for additional COMS staff.
- The O&M Department works with around 1,300 consumers a year around the state. (Ages 18-100+)
- O&M training takes place where the client needs it.

Orientation and Mobility Training

- ▶ Human Guide
- ▶ Wayfinding and Navigation skills
- Inside travel
 - Protective techniques
 - Trailing skills
 - Long cane training or ID cane
- Outdoor travel
 - Non—visual Pedestrian Skills
 - Street Crossing Skills
 - Transit
 - Transportation options
 - Sunglass evaluation



Street Crossing Skills



- Walk to street crossing
- Locate the edge of the street
- Decide when is the best time to cross.
- Maintain alignment during crossing
- Monitor traffic during crossing
- Recognize end of crossing (other side of the street)
- Establish which direction they need to go towards once on the other side.

Advocacy

- Local transportation agencies
 - Public Works Dept.
 - Traffic or street departments
 - Public Utility districts
- Regional transportation agencies/metropolitan planning agencies (MPOs)
- State or local pedestrian & bicycle coordinator
- Transit agencies
- School administrations
- Police Departments
- Pedestrian groups
- Local Commission on Disabilities

Sidewalk Issues



- Repair of sidewalks
 - Use of brick sidewalks
- Accessible sidewalk routes from main sidewalk to buildings
- Lack of snowplowing/sanding
- Overhangs/brush
- Street Furniture
- Signage location

Lack of Accessible Pedestrian Signals & Detectable Warnings

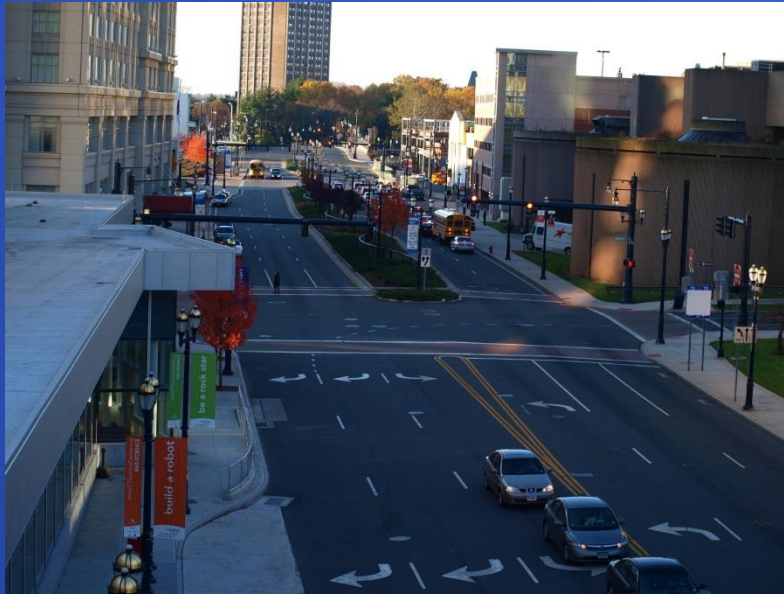


Construction Barricades



- Requirement that construction barriers that are stable, continuous, and have a rail along the bottom.

Complex Intersection Design



- Actuated Intersections
- Right on Red
- Left/Right protected turns
- No APS
- Curb cut placement
- Rounded & large curb radius
- Roundabouts

Thanks for Listening!

- Meg Robertson BS MA COMS
- Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist
- Director ,Orientation & Mobility Dept.
- Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

Meg.Robertson@state.ma.us

617-626-7581